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Essayes and Characters of a Prison and Prisoners. N. 1297.

Written by C. M. of Grays-Inne, Gent.
With some new Additions.

1080.6 - 10



Hee's a rame Taylor stripes the Divell in ill.

Those that keepe me, I keepe; if can, will fit:

Printed at London by T. O. for Mathew Walbancke, and are to
be sold at his Shop at Grays-Inne Gate. 1638.

Petropavlovsk Oblast

Chukotka Autonomous Okrug

Sakhalin Oblast

To the most worthy young
 Gentlemen (my noble Visitants)
 of the Honourable Society
 of Grayes-Inne.

Worthy Friendⁱ, (and nobleſt ſociety of Gentlemen) doe not thinkē that with Pigmallion, I am inamourēd with my owne Piece, in that once more I was hōver the Picture that w^un drawne but the Terme going before: for neither the colours laid on then, nor theſe now, are worthy to be preferred to eyes ſo iudicious, as yours are: I come now not to reſing, but to re-cant the errours both of my Pen and Judg-ment, ſo rafhly to thrust my ſelfe into a Printers preſſe, though againſt my will: Ad prælum cuſiad prælium. I undertooke a warre when I adventured to ſpeak in print, (not in print as Puritanes Ruffes are ſet) but to have the Criticall fingers of every mewing censure to fill p mee as I lyē on a Stationers ſtall: for tenne thouſand Bullets have been ſpitefully ſhot at me for that one poore paper Bullet which I ſhot up and downne Fleet-street. Carps have beeene good cheap this Lent, for I have had more than I deſired for nothing, ſome being ſent from the table of Taylors, who having no great appetitē (thouſh infatiablie Mawes of themſelves) to other meats, did their best to whet their ſtomackes upon mee, but they ſhall ſooner finde to be a choak-Pearc in going downe, than a Gudgeon, eaſily to

The Epistle Dedicatory.

be devoured, especiall by their soare throates. Such seeth may
bite me, but shall not draw blood of mee. I make an Apology
to none, but to you, (most worthy to be by me respected,) wha-
thers thinke I care not, so you taxe not my weaknesse; signe
you my pardon, and I weigh not who else condemnes me. I
have now put my name to my booke, (without tergeversa-
tion or turne-coating the letters) not that I feared to dare so
much before, but my love aiming onely to hit your favours.
I know my meaning could not lye hidden to you, for your sakes
especially (noble friends) who have beeene loving Visitants to
me in this enchanted Castle, where I lye bound with Sorce-
wers Charmes, before did, and I doe now with whole Miriads
of thanks, send these Papers full of my love in retribution
of your singular expression bestowed upon mee. And so not
doubting of a continuation of your good thoughts towards me,
I commend my selfe, not onely to you, whose personall em-
bracements have added heate to my affection, but to all the
rest of my fellow Students incorporated into your most
worthy Society.

Yours, in the highest
degree of Friendship to
bee commanded.

G. M.

To

To his most loving and ever Respective
Kind Uncle, Mr. Mathew Mainwaring of
Namptwich in Cheshire.

SInce my comming into this Prison, what with the strangeness of the place, and strictnesse of my Liberty, I am so transported, that I could not follow that Study wherein I tooke great delight and chiefe pleasure: and to spend my time idly, would but adde more discontentments to my troubled breif, and being in this *Chaos* of discontentments, fantasies must arise, which will bring forth the fruits of an idle braine, for *& mali minimum*. It is farre better to give some accompt of time, though to little purpose, than none at all. To which end I gathered a handfull of Essays, and a few Characters of such things as by my owne experience I could say, *Probatum est*: not that thereby I shoulde either please the Reader, or shew exquicitenesse of invention, or curious style; seeing what I write of, is but the Childe of sorrow, bred by discontentments, and nourisht up with misfortunes, to whose helpe melancholly *Sasurne* gave his Judgement, the Night-bird her invention, and the ominous *Raven* brought a quill taken from his owne wing, dipt in the Inke of misery, as chiefe aiders in this Architect of sorrow.

This Childe is borne, and brought to the Font, all things ready, only there wants a Patron. *Hoc difficilimum est*: For who will defend sorrow and misery? Who will give him entertainment? Who will countenance this Worke, the Author being miserable? Who will respect the matter, the Man being an abject? Who will cherishe the Circumstance, when the substance is almost perished? Surely *Non in his diebus*, for Friendship is banished, Love extinguished, naturall affection gone to travell; Gold is dearer than a Friend, Treasure is nearer than a Kinsman, and Mammon better beloved than a Sonne. Yet in this famine of true friends I will venter upon you, (most loving Uncle) as a God-father to this my first borne, though in misery. I can have but a denyall, which if you doe, it must dye in oblivion. But why shoulde I feare, since you have alwayes beeene

my

The Epistle Dedicatory.

my Anchor when I have beeene Ship-wrecke, and many times saved my poore Barke when it was ready to split? Why then shoulde I doubt of your friendly Patronage, which hath never failed me? Be bold then, and goe thy way, thou shalt be entertained, though not for any worth which is in thee, yet in respect thou doest but shew a willing heart, and doest indeavour to expell ingratitude, a thing most odious not onely to man, but God; not to Christians, but Heathens; not to Heathens, but Beasts.

What then shoulde I give to you for all your kindestnesse which you have continually bestowed upon me, which are so many, that if I shoulde endeavour to recite, *Ante diem clauso componet vesper Olympo*: but to shew my willingness to my power, though I am not able to requite, (for *ultra posse non est esse*) doe offer up unto the Oracle of your love the sacrifice of a loving heart, hoping that what is amisse, you will impute it to the slendernesse of my judgement, and the dulnesse of my braine, which this place hath made worse, (and not to the least defect of good will) and that you would let none but your selfe see my imperfections, which are sufficienly divulged by mine owne actions, and would be unwilling to have a second Edition of them by my writing. This was the chiefest cause I tooke this in hand; another was, because that happily some friend of mine (*post mea funera*) by accident may find this paper, and read them, and by my example say, *Fælix sum, quem pericula huius Authoris faciunt me canum*, for *Qui ante non cavet, post dolebit*, and that they may be affraid to enter into Debt any farther than necessity urgeth; and if they be forced to borrow, to pay as soone as they can: (for Usury and Extortion bite deepe, and credit once crackt is not easily recovered, nor all Creditors of one minde; for some will in pitty forbear, and others will shew the greatest leuenity. So hoping you will accept *non donum sed animum*, I rest,

Your ever loving Nephew,

Geffray Mynshul.



To the Courteous Reader.



My Courteous Reader, onely to banish melancholy, and to wade through tedious time, tedious in respect of this place, I gathered a few Essays and Charakters, with an intent not to have them seene of any, but to him to whom they were sent, being one that I might truely ground a certaintie of, who would excuse my imperfelliions, and judge charitably of my flendernes of iudgment: this Coppy by accident came to some of my friends hands, who having perused it, wished mee to put it in print, which I altogether refused, because I would not presume of my owne iudgement, or dare to venture put my selfe to the censure of so many understanding Readers, into whose hands it is subiect to fall. These persuasions prevailed not, intreaties were laid aside, and I must either divulge them, or else lose their love: This was the first motive that with an unwilling willingnesse, caused mee to put my booke to censure: Another was in respect some obdurate Creditors may reade it, and by reading mollifie their strong hearts: The last reason, because it may be as a caveat to yong gallants, to terrifie them how they runne in debt, wherein they may know that imprisonment is of all miseries most lamentable.

So hoping that the iudicious will with favourable censure mitigate my many imperfelliions, and the other judge favourably of my intention, which if it take well, is better than I can expect if otherwise they doe not iniury mee in giving desert his reward.



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ESSAYES



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ESSAYS OF A PRISON.

TO what end or purpose should I intreat the helpe of the Musēs, for the aide of invention ; or *Cicero*, to adorne my phrase with eloquence ; or *Horaces* deepe judgement to write judiciously ; or implore aide of *Martiall*, to speake mystically ; or *Virgils* heroick stile, to please the hearers, since what I write is nothing but of sorrow ; the subject but discontentment, and the whole matter but an Index of many miseries : and therefore my phrase shall be altogether unpolished, being the servant of my more dull apprehension.

*Vade, sed in cultus, qualem decet exulit esse,
In felix habitum temporis huius habe.*

My purpose is, with dim water-colours to line me out a heart, yea, such a heart, so discontented and oppressed, that I need not be curious in fitting every colour to his place, or to chuse the pleasantest chamber to draw it in, because in it I am to lay down the

2. *Essays and Characters of a Prison.*

bounds of those tempestuous seas, in which tenne thousands are every day tossed, if not overwhelmed, which is so usuall here amongst us, that every one is Arts master in this workmanship, and every minute something or other is still added to this distresed Picture, whose ponderous waight is so great, that the frame is scarce able to beare the *Effigies*.

My travels hither to this infernall Iland hath been but a short voyage, and my abode here as yet but few Moneths, but it seemes longer to me than an East-Indian voyage, and I am sure farre more dangerous: for if from the Indies of sixty men twenty come home safe it is well; but in this, if eighty of an hundred be not cast over-boord it is a wonder.

Loci inchan-
dieras.

Being once arived, no starre of comfort here can be seene to sayle by, no haven of happinesse neare, no anchor of hope to cast out, Top-saile, Fore-saile, Sprit-saile, Mizen, Maine, Sheat, Bollings and Drabller; are all torne by the windes, and the Barke it selfe so weather-beaten, that there is few can come neare to touch at the Cape of *Bona Speranza*.

Being once arived at, all are not onely staid, but the enchantments are so strong, that it transformeth all that come thither. First, the greatest courages are here wracked, the fairest reverntes do here come aground; it maketh a wise man to lose his wits, a foole to know himselfe, it turnes a rich man into a begger, and leaves a poore man desperate, he whom neither Snowes nor Alpes can vanquish, but hath a heart as constant as *Hanibal*, him can the miseries of Prison overcome.

The

The Character of a Prison.

A Prison is a grave to bury men alive, and a place wherein a man for halfe a yeares experience may learne more Law, than he can at *Westminster* for an hundred pound.

It is a *Microcosmus*, a little world of woe, it is a map of misery, it is a place that will learne a young man more villany, if he be apt to take it, in one halfe year, than he can learn at twenty dicing houses, bowling-allies, brothel-houses, or Ordinaries; and an old man more policy, than if he had bin Pupill to *Machiavel*.

It is a place that hath more diseases predominant in it, than the Pest-house in the Plague time, and it stinkes more than the Lord Majors dogge-house, or Paris garden in August.

It is a little common-wealth, although little wealth be common there; it is a desart where desert lyes hood-winckt; it is a famous City wherein are all Trades, for here lyes the Alchymist that can rather make *ex uno non autum*, than *ex non uno autum*.

It is as intricate a place as *Rosamonds Labyrinth*, and is so full of blinde Meanders, and crooked turnings, that it is impossible to find the wayout, except he be directed by a silver Clue, and can never overcome the *Minotaure*, without a golden ball to worke his owne safety.

It is as Innes of Court, for herein Lawyers inhabit, that have crochets to free other men, yet al their quirks & quiddities cannot infranchise themselves.

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It is the Doctors-Commons, where skilfull Physicians frequent, who like *Escalapius* can cure other mens diseases, yet cannot quintessence out of al their Vegetals and Minerals, a Balsamum or Elixir to muke a soveraigne plaister to heale the surfeit the Mace hath given them.

It is the Chyrurgions Hall, where many rare Artists live, that can such other mens wounds, yet cannot heale the wotind the Serjeant hath given them.

It is your Bankrupts banqueting house, where hee sits feasting with the sweet meates borrowed from other mens tables, having a voluntary disposition never to repay them againe.

It is your Prodigals *Vltimum refugium*, wherein he may see himselfe, as in a glasse, what his excesse hath brought him to; and lest he should surfeit, comes hither to physick himselfe with moderate dyet, and lest that his bed of Dounie shoule breede too many diseases, comes hither to change his bed, where he is scarce able to lye downe.

It is a Purgatory which doth afflict a man with more miseries than ever he reaped pleasures.

It is a pilgrimage to extenuate sinnes, and absolve offences : for here be Seminaries and Massie Priests, which doe take downe the pride of their flesh more, than a voyage to the Holy Land, or a haire shirt in Lent.

It is an exile which doth banish a man from all contentments, wherein his actions doe so terrifie him, that it makes a man grow desperate.

To conclude, what is it not? In a word, it is the
very

very Idea of all misery and torments, it converts joy into sorrow, riches into poverty, and ease into discontents.

Of Prisoners.

I Could wish that every one that comes to prison, should not be dismayed, but carry it out bravely, and with resolution, and to consider that no misery in this world is endlesse. After stormes calmes wil arise, and though sorrow be over night, yet joy will come in the morning; and to say as *Cæsar* did to the Pilot that carried him when he was afraid, quoth he, *Thou carriest Cæsar*: So every generous minde ought to be arm'd with resolution to meet al storms of adversity, and to consider that man was borne to misery, and therefore naturall unto him.

*O mis homo
misér.*

But thou wilt peradventure say, the name of a prisoner is loathsome to thee. Is it because thou art cooped under locke and key? Is it because thou feelest wants? Is it because thou art barred of freedome? Is it because thy friends looke strangely on thee or forsake thee? Is it because thou art disgraced & holden in scorne? Is it because thou lodgest hardly, and peradventure with an ill bedfellow? Yet let not all these dismay thee, for hadst thou the whole Countrey to walke in, yet thy soule is still imprisoned in thy corrupted body. Let not want discourage thee, for thy Redeemer suffered hunger and cold to fulfill thy wants. Let not want of freedom trouble thee, thy Saviour was fettered & mangled to enfranchise thee.

Let

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Let not the coy looks of thy friends dismay thee, thy Lord was scorned of all men to bring thee into favour. Let not disgraces molest thee, the King of Kings was most disgraced to honour thee. Let not thy lodging, or forced chamber-fellows afflict thee, the Pilot of thy safety was lodged in a Manger, and made a companion for theeves. But looke into thy owne boosome, and learne but a short rule, yet very difficult: viz. (*nosce te ipsum*) and thou shalt find that it is not imprisonment that afflicts thee, but the evil which is in thy selfe, makes thee so distastfull, for hadst thou all things at will, yet still wouldst thou wish for more. The greatest Monarch lives not without some discontentment; and comfort thy selfe that one day thou shalt be infranchised, and goe to that place aud Mansion house which is prepared for thee, where all scores shall be paid, al cares banished, and all teares wiped away.

Varlets and Catchpoles arrest thee, fret not at it, if law have power to whet an axe, she must pick out a hangman to strike the mace, this doth but only put thee in remembrance of that arrest which shall summon thee to appear at the imperial court of heaven.

Thy actions are many and great which are against thee, yea some of you come to a tormenting execution; grieve not at this, it doth but teach thee that thy accompts must be brought against thee, to draw thee to a reckoning, to make thee know that thou owest a reckoning to heaven as well as to man, and Justice will execute his power, not to drive thee to despair, but to amendment.

Further

*Nemo vivit
contentus.*

*Redde ratio-
nem.*

Further, I perswade my selfe there are many Prisoners whose resolutions are so noble, that before they would yeeld to the threats of an insulting creditor, they would cheerfully thrust the ir necks into the yoke of adversity, if no more veines herein were cut but their owne ; but here is none so poore, which dyes in Prison, but the last gaspe doth cracke the heart-strings of a wife, children, father, mother, friends, or allies, therfore art thou bound to take pitty of thy selfe, and to hang out the flag of truce to thy bloody minded creditor, and seeke for ransome to pay all, so that thou maist escape with life, though it be upon some ignoble termes, and much losse to thee, if none of these respects, yet for thy Countries sake, No nobis, sed Patriæ. to whom thou art a Traitor if thou give thy selfe to thine enemies hand, when upon parley thy peace may be made, come forth of prison, and die not there, that thou maist honour thy King, and do service to thy Countrey, and pay thy debts so farre as thou art able, because the greatest debt that ever thou didst owe was paid for thee.

Prisoners of another nature.

SOME there be, which have gotten other mens Bankrupts, goods, and so lye here to defraud them, these of all men deserve no pitty or compassion, which tye their owne hands, and make themselves gally-slaves, onely to weare golden fetters: how canst thou say thy prayers, and expect a blessing should be powred on thee, that so willingly errest from the type of a just

C man,

*Fac alij scri
quod velis ipse
tibi.*

man, which is, (*Suum quique attribuere.*) I will not speake much of thee, because it must be all gall: Only this in hope to amend thee, the gallowes on which the poore Theefe hangeth is most fit for thee: he robbeth one man, thou whole families: he is a Felon to man onely, thou art a Felon to God and man: if he kill he doth it suddainly, and but one, when thou with a linging death destroyest father, mother, chil-
*Divitie faciunt
bonum poter-
tiores non me-
tiores.*
*Bona male par-
ta male dilat-
bunter.*

ding, and peradventure many Orphans left to their charge. But looke to it, that although thou compound for two shillings or three shillings in the pound, the overplus which thou so ill hast got, will bring thy soule into such debt, that the remainder wil not pay the interest to save the forfeiture of thy soule to the Divell, which will damne thee and thy angels with him and his angels; and thy issue, or allies which shall enjoy them shall never prosper with them.

The Character of a Prisoner.

A Prisoner is an impatient Patient, linging under the rough hands of a cruell Phisitian; his creditor having cast his water, knowes his disease, and hath power to cure him, but takes more pleasure to kill him. He is like *Tantalus*, who hath freedom running by his doore, yet cannot enjoy the least benefit thereof, his greatest griefe is, that his credit was so good, and now no better: his land is drawne within the compasse of a sheepe's skinne, and his owne hand the fortification that barres him of enterance: hee is fortunes tossing ball, an object that would make mirth melancholy:

melancholy : to his friends an abject, and a subject
of nine dayes wonder in every Barbers shop, and
a mouthfull of pitty (that he had no better fortune)
to Midwives, and talkative Gossips ; and all the con-
tent that this transitory life can give him, seemes but
to flout him, in respect the restraint of liberty barres
the true use. To his familiars he is like a plague,
whom they dare scarce come nigh for feare of in-
fection , he is a monument ruined by those which
raised him , he spends the day with a *heimihi*, *ve*
miserum, and the night with *Nallis est medicabilis*
herbis.

Of Creditors.

A Creditor hath two paire of hands ; one of flesh
and blood, and that Nature gave him ; another
of Iron, and that the Law gives him : but the one is
more predominant than the other, for mercy guides
the one, and mammon the other. But if he once
considers whathee goeth about to doe, and that it
is the Image of God whom he laboureth to deface Deus fecit ho-
and oppresse with miseries and calamities : then
the softnesse of the one doth so operate that it minem secun-
meets with the hardnesse of the other, which never
comes to passe, but when grace and mercy kisse Law
and Justice ; but such dayes are seldom set downe
in our Calenders, but I perswade my selfe that for
a strange Meridian is that Almanacke calculated, in
which they are found.

dum imaginem
suum.

I by mine owne experience (though little, yet too

much to learne it here). have knowne of my owne knowledge. a hundred Creditors which have laid their debtors in Irons, as relentless as themselves; and c fthose hundred, if I should adde a hundred more, I thinke I should nominate but one onely, and onely one of a mercifull breast, who did not onely grieve to see his debtor opprest with misery, but also laid money out of his purse to free him, he shot a seconnd arrow to finde the first, and suppose he shot both away, doe you thinkē his quiver was the emptier? no, he scattered a handfull of corne, and reaped a bushell, he received treble interest, he gained by this new security, and such as would not faile him at the day; God became his debtor, and paid him more than his accompt came to.

Ironia. Thou that art a Creditor wilt not beleeve this: doest not. But instead of this mans weeping, make thy debtor melt into teares, and instead of his lamentation, rejoice he is in thy hands to use him cruelly, and flatter thy selfe in saying, thou hast no reason to lose so much by him, but I will have his body; or in perswading thy selfe, that his friends wil not let him lye for such a debt, and that thou wilt not forgive him, but *nolens valens* wilt be satisfied, or else he shall starve and rot: O thou wicked man, thou never dost consider what teares thy Saviour shed to free thhe, and when thou wast given up to the prison of hell, by the hands of thy cruell Creditor the Divil to be cruelly tormented, yet Christ paid all thy scores with his most precious blood, and how canst thy lye downe on thy pillow, to pray to God to forgive.

*Homo homini
super.*

forgive thee a million of debts, nay, they runne into *infinitum*, which will not forgive thy brother one debt. And when all thy friends would not redeem thee, thy Saviour freed thee; how canst thou do these things with a safe conscience? Dost thou not sleepe on the pillow of thy owne damnation, thy prayers turne into cursings, and thou dost but mocke him that thou prayest to.

Consider what a great score thou art to pay, what an accompt thou art to make, and how thou shalt not escape, if thou use such cruelty, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing: thou that art a cruell murtherer, whom the revenge and wrongs of a wife, children, parents, and orphans, will like the blood of *Abel* call to heaven for vengeance on thee and thy posterity: doe but consider of this, and then thou wilt be afraid to torment thy brother. But imitate the Romanes, who rather builded a Temple for the relieve of those which were falne into decay and poverty, than finde a prison to starve them in; and follow *Titus Vespasian*, who having omitted but one day to doe justice, caused that day to be put forth of the Calender. So that day when thou shalt have but a thought of tormenting thy poore brother, doe but looke into thy owne Conscience, and it will make thee ~~repent~~ that ever thou ~~haſt~~ lived such a day wherein thou hast playd the Tyrant in thy heart. The rocks have yeelded relief to men opprest, but thou more harder than they, art the cause of their misery. Be thou as great a Tyrant over thy poore Debtor as *Nero* was to Rome, as cruell as *Phalaris*, as inhumane

as *Lycan*, and in the end thou dost with these get a staffe to break thy owne head, and lay a snare which thou thy selfe shalt fall into, for though thy owne person escape, yet thy posterity shall be sure to feel the punishment.

Thou that vauntest, and wilt make dice of thy debtors bones : be these the words of a man ? No, of a monster ; no, but a Divell ; nay worse than a Divell, a thing not worthy name : for these words thou art as infamous, as the Jewes hatefull, for casting of dice for our Lords garment ; that garment was but a fence-less thing, but thou casts dice for a peece of thy Re-deemers body.

Thou takest with one clap of a Varlets hand, from the Courtier his honor, from the Lawyer his tongue, from the Merchant the Seas, from the Citizen his credit, from the Schoeller his preferment, from the Husbandman the earth it selfe, and from all men (as much as thou maist) the brightnesse and warmth of the Sunne in heaven. In a word, if nothing will make thy stony heart relent, thou in being cruell to thy debtor, art worse than the hang-man ; hee before he strikes begs pardon, thou takest a pride to condemne where thou maist save.

But it may be thy estate is sicke, thy credit much ingaged, and to save thy selfe thou art forced to doe this.

In so doing thou dost well : if another ware thy coat, and thou goest cold, thou maist pluck it from his shoulders. If thou art hungry, and another keeps thy meate, thou maist take it off his Table : if he be able

able to cure thy wound, which for his sake thou hast made, thou hast reason to seeke thy remedy; but if he which hath borrowed thy coate hath worne it out, and hath not a ragge to cover him with, wilt thou trample upon his naked body? If with the Jew of Malta, in stead of coyne, thou requirest a pound of flesh next to thy debtors heart, wilt thou cut him in peeces? If thy debtor offer thee his bed helyes in, his chamber hee sleepes in, his dish he drinke in, nay, all that he hath, so that he leaves himselfe, wife, and children, as naked as they came into the World, wilt thou for all this suffer him to lye in prison? If thou be mercifull to thy debtor that cannot pay thee, alas, what is it? No more than if thou shouldest lift up the head of a sicke man upon his pillow to eafe him, he may recover and doe as much for thee. In prison poverty is made beggery, and so thereby thou dōst not onely undo thy debtor, but lose all: therefore be mercifull and pittifull, and thou shalt not lose thy reward.

Lycurgus being askt why he made no Law for par-^{Particidies.} ricides, he answered, because he thought there were none so unnaturall: so if I should have studied al the dayes of my life, and that my yeares should be doubled, I should never have imagined either to have invented, or to have beeene an eye-witnesse of such unnaturalnesse as is here exemplary, as the Sonne who being bound for his father, to free himselfe, hath laid his Father up inclose Prison, and here hath derayned him seaven yeares, never yeelding to any composition, but his poore Father lives at his mercilesse mercy:

mercy : and againe, the father suffers his sonne to be imprisoned for his owne debt at his owne suit; surely a thing so abhord, that I tremble to write it, and none can reade it without blushing.

What will this world come to, when the mammon of this world shall set father against sonne, sonne against father, and make them more mercileffe than Tygers, and more unnaturall than beasts? for a beast forsakes not his own, but man respecteth gold before his friend, and the father coyne before the sonne of his body, flesh of his flesh. And the sonne, the God of this world, before his father which gave him life and being, whom he ought to cherish, and undergoe all troubles to ease him. But looke to it, both fathers and children, least in a moment the just jndgement of God fall upon you, and damne you and your gold together, loving it better than those whom you ought to cherish, and the one to be but a thing of the basest esteeme, in respect of the other. I could exemplifie it with histories, as well forraine as dome sticke, but that it is not my purpose, for *Ex paucis plurima inten-*

dere poterit. *Ex paucis plurima concipit ingenium.*

The Character of a Creditor.

A Creditor is a man whose estate is wrapped up in Sheep-skinnes, his rising growes by his debtors fall, his credit relies upon his debtors performance, and the death of a young gallants father, is more pleasing to him, than fasting dayes to an Usurer, or death to a Broker ; he growes rich onely by putting forth

forth commodities, which immediatly converts to discommodities ; he will not put money for tenne in the hundred, for Usury is hatefull to him, but he loves Extortion, and makes that his *summum bonum*, for he will Merchandise with you, whereby hee will gaine sixty in a hundred ; he is your Cities honest man, which is, to speak the truth, more than a knave, for a knave that is crafty needs no Broker, but he cannot live without one. He is a man composed of all love, and protesting kindnesse to pleasure the occasions of his gallant Debtor, with his much affirmation of his respect, how willing hee is to doe his worship a pleasure, whereby the chiefe aime of his pleasure, is to have a footing upon some capitall mes-suage, or else to be fingring some petty Lordship, or comely Mannor, who having no sooner glutted himselfe with the rich banquet of his Debtors deere cost, but immediately to Physick himselfe, hee is at the charge of a faire hackney Coach, with three most absolute jades to draw him, (whither hee most willingly drawne) with his curious wife, and two or three of his owne conditioned neighbours, to see *Similia simili gaudet.* this goodly purchase, who prepare themselves some fortnight before hand, and prune themselves up in their Peacocks feathers, like the puppits in a Lord Majors pageant, and for this great act he is admired at amongst his neighbours, as the Owle in the day time amongst other birds, and esteemed of with as much respect as the Captaine *Pigmi* was, which was commander in that bloody warres against the terrible blacke Crows.

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A Creditor may further be said to be either, *Homo*, *monstrum*, or *Demon*. A man, when he casts his debtor into prison with a determination to seeke his owne, not to ruine him, and if he be not able to pay all, to take what he can spare, and give him day for the rest, and so release him : this man is (*homo homini Deus*) that as he doth punish, so he doth preserve.

A monster, when he hath not onely extended his substance, but casts him in prison, and is as deafe as an adder to heare of release, till he have paid him the uttermost farthing.

A divel, when he hath ruined him, doth rejoice to see him fal, and in stead of coyne will have his cakasse: But to finde a Creditor both *Homo & Angelus*, that will release his prisoner when hee is not able to pay him, and that will consider, that *ultra posse non est esse*. Such a one is, *rara avis in terris, &c.*

Of choyce of company in Prison.

V Vouldst thou learne to dispute well? be an excellent Sophister. WOULDST thou dispute of forraigne affaires, and be an excellent Linguist? I counsell thee to travell. WOULDST thou be of a pleasing and affectionat behaviour? frequent the Court. WOULDST thou dive into the secret villanies of man? lye in prison.

via periculosa. Take heed when thou entrest into this wildernesse of wilde beasts, what path thou takest, some guide is necessary, or else unawares thou wilt with the Romane Empereurs Steward fall into a pit, where cruell devou-

devouring beasts are intrapped, which will ruin thee.

Society is the string at which the life of man hangeth, without which is no musicke, two in this maske is but a union; *Adam* had his *Eve*, and every sonne of *Adam* hath his brother whom he loves.

No Chariot runs with one wheele, two makes it
stiddy, a third is superfluous, foure too cumbersome :
thou must choose one, and but one; who walks alone
is lame.

Men of all conditions are forced into prison, as all Rivers runne into the sea, therefore it is good to be familiar with all, acquainted with few, and if with any, *candem cantilenam cano*, but with one make try-all what the vessell will hold, before thou powre thy selfe into him, and be wary what thou saiest or doest, for thou shalt have the eyes of envy, not of reprove, which will looke upon thee, to malice thee if thou dost well, and if thou deny to follow them in their humours, and to dance after their owne pipe, thou shalt be more emulated than the boy was of the two Ladies, when he preferred *Venus* before in giving her the golden ball; and if by accident thou dost any thing amisse, as, *humanum est errare*, thou shalt bee more vilified, and with inveterate malice more prosecuted to disgrace thee, than the Parisiens did the Hugonites.

Be wary therefore of thy company , for to bee a
bowle for every alley , and run into every company ,
proves thy minde to have no bias.

Thy comming into prison, is like a Traveller com-

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ming into strange Countries, who takes up severall lodgings, hath many welcomes, but they are not to him, but to his money.

If thou wilt dwel of thy selfe, be not giddy, but composed; for he that is every where, is nowhere; therefore bee wary whom thou selectest; for here be of all sorts, for thou shalt as well find a flattering *Gnathe*, as a dissembling *Sinon*; and if thou have store of Crownes, then shalt thou be sure to be humoured, and be beloved with outward respects, and then they will counsell and advise thee, with protestations of their love; but looke to such, whose counsell to hearé and not imbrace will not hurt, but may much improve thee; but if once taken it will operate as the apple which *Valentine Dutchesse* of Orleans cast to the yong Princes, which once tasted, will so poyson thee with corruption, that thou art uncurable.

Further, here bee vaine-glorious and talkative-headed fooles, such will more trouble thee than any action of debt which is laid on thee: here be common drunkards which lye heavier on thee than an execution.

But if thou suffer a man to lye long in thy bosome, albeit his conditions be full of flawes, yet labour to peece and seame up his vices, rather than to cast him off, lest that it call thine owne judgement in question.

Humanum est errare. All men have imperfections, and being in prison we must not lor k to have them like stars; this place is no *Orbe* for such constellations.

Lct

Let not thy companion be a miserable base-minded fellow, for then niggardliness will hold her fingers on thy purse-strings : let him not be a prodigall, for then he will draw thee to riot; if adulterer, to lust; if a swearer to damned oathes ; if a pot-companion, to drunkennesse : acquaint thy selfe therfore not with the most, but best, not the best in cloaths or money, but in vertue : if there be none such in Prison, then keepe company with thy selfe ; in thy Chamber keep company with *Plutarch* and *Seneca*, *Perkins* and *Greenham*, he one will teach thee to live well, the other to dye well.

Divitiae faciunt bonitas potenteres non meliores.

Gum bonis bo-
rum.

The Character of Companions in Prison.

Quot homines, tot sententiae.

ALL Companies are not alike, neither is there an union in their dispositions. I will therefore touch but three kinds of persons which thou shalt be sure to find in Prison.

- 1 A parasite.
- 2 A John indifferent.
- 3 A true hearted Titus.

The first loveth thee better for thy meanes than merit, thy substance than thy selfe, who will rip open thy bosome to thy enemy, and when thy money begins to sinke will flye from thee, and will be the first that wil disgrace thee. He is like a whore, who wil no longer faune than thou wilt feed him. He is a trencher rascall, which will more hate thee when thou leavest to relieve him, than ever he did seeme to love thee.

The second is one that will flatter thee, and will neither absolutely love thee, nor hate thee, but when present will be with thee, when absent against thee; he is *bis & ubique*, here and every where, and in very truth he is no where.

The last of these thou maist cal the masculine sweet-heart, which may be resembled to truth, whose bosome is alwaiers bare, and hath a breast of Chrystall, that thou maist looke through his body to his heart; he is one that will loye thee in aduersity, hee will respect thee in the kitchin as well as in the parlour, he will reverence thee in the Hole as well as in the Masters side, he will looke on thee in ragges as well as in robes, and wil acknowledge thee in fetters as well as in a feather-bed: come stormes, come calmes, come tempests, come Sun-shine, come what can come, he will be thine, and sticke to thee.

*Verm amicus
opimus the-
fanus.*

Of Visitants in Prison.

Nullus ad amissas ibit amicus opes.

From a ruinous house every man flyes: they that are abroad aske every day how thou doft, when in prison they protest they are sorry for thy misfortunes, but never come to thee: such are like idle passengers pressing about a Barbers shop when a man is carried in wounded, who will peepe in, and climbe about the windows, but dare not enter into the shop, for feare they should fall into a swoond to see him drest. A prisoner is as much beholding to such leap-frogge acquaintance, as a man shaken with an Ague

to

to every gossiping women hee meetes, who will teach him an hundred medicines, and not one worth taking.

But if thy ability be such that thou workest thy liberty, then thou shalt have as many hands imbracing thee as *Centimarus* had, much wine with little love bestowed upon thee, with oaths infinite; that they were comming forty times to see thee, but this or that occasion hindred them, when indeed they were afraid thou shou'dst have had occasion to use them: and they had purposed to have come this day, but they are happy that thy so much desired liberty hath prevented them: to such give no credit, onely salute them with a *Salve*, and a *vale*.

Others will come to thee with weeping and sighing to cheare thee up; such are like Robin red-breasts that bring strawes in their charitable bills to cover the dead.

Others will promise to lend thee money, but try them before thou have occasion to use them, which if they deny thee when thou art at liberty, be then unto them as a shadow. But true friends in a prison are like strawberries in a barren countrey, that one can hardly get a handfull of them in a whole yeare; nay, they are like your Roses here in Christmas, a thousand too one if in an age one be found: so in prison it is a great odds, if of a thousand kinsmen, allies, and acquaintance I finde but one true friend.

Donec eris felix multos numerabis amicos,

Tempora si fuerint rubra, solus eris.

But in this great dearth of friends wherein we live,

live, under what fortunate Planet may I judge my selfe to be borne, and that the constellations of the starres have much favoured me, that amongst all my flesh and blood I have found one true *Damon*, or faithfull *Pylades*, and amongst all my acquaintance have found some faithfull, and more constant in their love and respect to me in this place, than when I was at liberty they did make shew of: Such Maests, that so save me in such wracks, I must ever love; with such Dolphins in all my dangers let me ever meet.

The Character of Visitants.

Visitants are men for the most part composed all of protesting promises, and little or no performance; they are like your Almanacks, which when they prognosticate faire weather, it is a million to a mite if it prove not contrary: they are like the German clocks which seldome goe right, their tongues run faster than the clocke on Shrove-tuesday; the pissing Conduit in Cheap-side, or an Irish mans paire of heeles when he runnes on a wager. They will tyre thy eares more in an houre with their loud protestations, than a S. Holler, Citizen, or Tailor will a hackny horse in halfe a dayes riding, but in performance will be as slow as as a snaile in her pace, and when thy messenger comes to them for money, then they will be sure to have the Strangulion, or Chollicke that they cannot speake, and looke as rustily on thy messenger, as a Lawyer will on his Clyent which sueth under *forma pauperis*, your letters as acceptable

ceptable as water into a shippe, the Kings privy seale to an Usurer, a Subpoena to a Country Gentleman, or a Catch pole amongst the friendly society of Gallants.

They are like the rings and chaines bought at St. Martins, that weare faire for a little time, but shortly after will prove Alchimy, or rather pure Copper.

Lastly, they are like the apples which grow on the Bankes of *Gomorrah*, they have crimson and beautiful rindes, but when they come to gather them they crumble all to dust.

Of entertainment in Prison.

AS soone as thou commest before the gate of the Prison, doe but thinke thou art entring into Hell, and it will extenuate somewhat of thy misery, for thou shalt be sure not only to find hell, but fiends and ugly monsters, which with continuall torments will afflict thee; for at the gate there stands *Cerberus*, a man in shew, but a dogge in nature, who at thy entrance will fawne upon thee, bidding thee welcome, in respect of the golden crust which he must have cast him, then he opens the doore with all gentlenes, shewing thee the way to misery is very faire, and being once in, he shuts it with such fury, that it makes the foundation shake, and the doore and windowes so barricadoed, that a man so loseth himselfe with admiration, that he can hardly finde the way out, and be a sound man. Now for the most part your Porter is either some broken Cittizen, who

E hath

hath plaid Jack of all trades, some Pander, Broker, or Hangman, that hath plaid the knave with all men, and for the more certainty his Embleme is a red Beard, to which Sacke hath made his Nose cousin German.

No sooner shall a man passe this fury, but hee is conducted to little ease his chamber, where hee no sooner hath entred, but (*hard usage*) his chamberlaine salutes him, and protesteth he hath lodged thee with as honest a man as himselfe, when as in truth a paire of sheres cannot part the knave betwixt them, and protesteth thou shalt have a cleane paire of sheetes, and of the best, who having no sooner fingered thy coyne, but sends thee a paire of sheetes fitter for a horse than a man, who having playd the Jade so with thee, then leaves thee. He no sooner departs, but thred-beare and monilesse thy chamberfellowes, come upon thee for a Garnish, which if thou deny them, or hast no money, then *Exit cloake* from thy shoulders, and enter two dozen of pots, and one dozen of pipes; this is the pillow which shall be given thee to sleepe on the first night: now thou must be saluted in the morning, or else peradventure thou wilt thinke thy selfe not welcome.

If the morning at thy uprising, (*Pot-hearbe*) the Gardiner appears in his likeness, and twill have *unguentum auratum*, for the narrow path thou haft to walke in.

Then to whet on thy stomach to dinner comes (*cut-throat*) the Steward for his crowne, who professeth much kindnesse he will shew thee; for thou

haſt

hast bound him with thy courtesie to couesen thee
not onely in thy meate but money.

Next after this comes (Mistresse *Mutton-chops,*)
the head Cooke, who protesteth thou shalt com-
mand her, who having no sooner greased her fingers
with thy silver, but ever after she will have a hand in
thy dish, doe what thou canst to prevent it ; so on
all sides the blood of thy purse must be powred out
to maintaine such mercilesse blood-hounds ; and
continuall purse-leaches.

These furies, as they have divers shapes, so have
they severall kinds of temptation, for after thou
haft beene some fortnight in prison, they will come
to thee to cheere thee, lest thou shouldest adde me-
lancholy to discontentment, and will tell thee they
wishes thee well, and thou shalt command them, and
in their opinion the sight of the street will much con-
tent thee, and they will attend thee to the Taverne
within the rule, where thou must quench their
thirst with Sacke, and what is got of thee is well got
being obtained by rule ; for he that lives by rule, can-
not erre.

Suppose thou either perceivest these things by o-
thers, or by thy owne experience, and so refuse this
profered courtesie of theirs, purchased for their plea-
sures at thy owne cost : then if at any time upon just
occasion thou desirest it, thou must give them a cup
of *anrum potabile*, or else expect not the least favour
or smallift courtesie, for no penny, no Pater-noster,
no gold, do friendship.

If thou continually be offered injuries, beare them

patiently, or else thou shalt be layd in Irons for satisfaction.

If they perceive thou art like to continue, and hast good meanes, thou shalt want no content that prison can yeeld, but every dram of content will cost thee a pound of silver.

When they heare thou art upon discharge, then will they be very sorry, and make all the best meanes that possible they can to detaine thee; but if there be no remedy, but thou must needes depart, then what with their three halfe pence a pound for Action money, and three in the pound for Execution, they wil make such a large bill, which will be more unconscionable than a Taylors, for he will abate of the *Summa totalis*, but in this here is nothing to bee abated, all their speech is *legem pone*, or else with their ill custome they will detaine thee, for thy denyall is an execution without tryall by law, for notwithstanding that amongst just men, *malus usus abolendus est*, here *conservandas & preservandas*, and so the entrance into prison, the continuance in prison, and the discharge out of prison, will bee nothing but racking the heart-strings of poore prisoners, and exhausting the substance of the distressed, whatsoever their wants be, holding it for a maxime, that *Summa iniuria est summum ius.*

Of Keepers which goe abroad with Prisoners.

HAst thou a desire to goe abroad, thy *Argos* which attends thee, will be more chargeable, than the Lord Majors gally foyst on *Simon* and *Iudes* & Billings per
diem cū Cerere
& Baccho.

day, or a Citizens wife to her husband when strawberries and Cherries are first cryed in the streetes, and will consume thee, if thou forbear not; thou maist better cheape ride on thy foot-cloth, than go abroad with thy Keeper.

If thou walkest abroad with thy Keeper use him friendly, but ~~not~~ respectively; so manage him, that he shall rather thinke himselfe beholding to thee, than thou to him; for howsoever he faunes upon thee with complements, standing bare with officious attendance; yet know, he serves in his place but as the dog the Butcher, he is to thee as a cur to a drove of beasts, if thou goest on quietly (be it to thy slaughter among griping Citizens, and cruell Creditors to worke thy owne freedome) he waits gently, and brings thee to the doore, but if thou once offer to stray hee worries thee.

Remember his eye shoothes at two whites, thy person and thy purse, the one is to guard thee, the other to feed him; thou art compelled to protect thy Carcase under his shelter, as a sheep in a terrible storme under a brier, and be sure thy standing there is to have some of thy wooll torn off.

The Character of Keepers.

YOUR Keepers most commonly are insinuating knaves, and mercenary rascalls, wearing their Masters livery, but their owne badge, which is slave: in full proportion they look like the picture of envy, with their hands continually diving into poore prisoners pockets, with their heads uncovered, still proffering courtesies, when their harts make answer what kindnesse they doe is (*non tibi sed pecunia*) they most commonly feede well to their masters credit, but the tablers charge. Now if any take exception of the badge knave which I have given them, as the old proverbe is, touch a gald horse and he will kicke. I will maintaine what I say out of their owne authors, a bird of their own nest, yet not altogether so ill, who said to me that he was weary of his slavish life, in respect he must be knave in his place; who said, if he were true to his master, he must be knave to prisoners, if true to prisoners, knave to his master. So be he honest in his vocation, or dishonest, he must bee still knave; for *mala mens, malus animus*.

There are abundance of these snakes which lye lurking in this place, whose chiefest felicity is to talke of so many new prisoners which are committed, and are ready to faint if they but heare of release, and all the dogges at Paris-garden keep not such a bawling as these cures every morning in the Terme, to goe abroad with poore prisoners by rule, onely to prey and seiz upon their coyne, and they will not abate

one

one penny of their extortion, though the poore prisoner fast a week with bread and water. And they rejoice more for a *bacca corpus* in the vacation, than the husbandman for a plentifull harvest, or the Merchant for the safe landing of his Ship.

For money they will doe any thing, be it never so ill; so that they may purchase coyne, holding it a *maxime*, that silver is well gotten, if by any meanes obtained, and to use cruelty to Prisoners is policy and wisedome; because now is the time or never, for being once infranchised, they will be as wary to come in againe, as the bird which hath escaped the Foulers net.

Essays and Characters of Taylors and keepers of work (not illerected in *Prisons*) go to shew
that with them there is no better way to affright

These are diverse, but not *contraria*, they are all one in nature, in place onely they differ, (*nominis suorum*) the Keeper is the root, bbdy, and bulke of the tree, the jailors are but branches, some lipp off by losse of a Prisoner, by being given to drunkennes or whoring, (*adjuncts inseperable to them*) or by any other debarchednesse, at the pleasure of their commander.

The master of a prison is the *primum mobile*, in that everlasting motion, (a Jayle) and those key-turners and street-walkers, are the petty and necessari slavish wheeles, which runne like horses in Mills continually; by day with their feete, quicke eyes, and observing faces, by night with their feares,

that

that the doore should flye open, and prisoners escape.

Many men, (borne well, of gentle blood, and extraordinary education) forsake the calmes of their owne happy fortunes, to arive on these quick-sanded shores, and either by strength of purse, or free gift of great persons, have such places of command conferred upon them, (I speake here of the better sort, which are the Masters) yet I know not whether the perverse unruliness of prisoners, with whom they are to wrastle, or whether the fate of such star-crost houses, or what other malevolent aspect stickes upon them, I know not I say, whether one of these single, or all of them together, alter soft & noble inclinations into cruell and crooked ones ; neither is my complaint or condemnation of them generall, for I know some of this File, may, and doe march in the rankes of men both worthy, and full of comisseration towards those poore people under their charge.

But for the second sort, which properly are Taylors indeed, they are commonly eyther base tradesmen that have broken, and by little money pared off from other mens goods, buy such offices ; else are they lazy Serving-men, who being weary of carrying the Cloak-bagge, thinke it a brave life to come and command as good, and sometimes better men than their Masters, within the stinking precincts of a prison : or take the best choyce you can, they are but out-worne soldiers, but indeed for the most part the very off-scum of the rascal multitude, as Cabbage-carriers, Decoyes, Bum-bayliffes, disgraced Purse-vants,

vants, Botchers, Chandlers, and a rabble of such stinkardly companions, with whom no man of any reasonable fashion, but would scorne to converse; but in these infortunate caves of misery, where prisoners are tyed up like dogges, and these are the Beare-wards, that hold no life sweeter, than to insult over their betters.

These are *Niobes*, children turned into stones; these are double tongu'd monsters, who fawne upon prisoners with flattering speeches, and behind their backs cut their throats to their master.

Nay, these turne-coats take off the very top of their masters gentle disposition; and when they heare him promise to a Gentleman any favour of going abroad, or speaking to a Creditor in his behalfe, one of these Furies (bearing some secret spight) drawes blood of the prisoner, by poisoning the masters good intention, so that hee crossing over the water, or walking scarce to the Crosse in Cheape from the Compter, or from the Fleet so farre as to one of the Cooks Shops in the Lane, there drownes the vow of any promise.

Now such opinion puts he in these flattering Spaniels, and insinuating pesants, that the basest report and palpablest lye of them shall be sooner credited than any oath or contestation of the worthiest Gentleman, making confrontation against them.

Porters in prisons have in these close sights terrible teeth, and are good Blood-hounds, or rather mercilesse blood-suckers.

Whatsoever they whisper in the masters eare is to him a *Credo*.

Hinc illa lachryma.

This is the gall which so many noble spirits being forced to drinke downe, doe so complaine against the cruelty of their Keepers, neither are their tyrranies of one nature, but their whips have severall knots, and knot a severall smarting.

A Broker takes forty in the hundred, and is called unconscionable divell for it, but these men thinke they may (without danger to their soules) wring fifty pounds *per annum* (out of prisoners afflictions and utterly undone States) for one nasty Chamber, hung with Cobweb-lawne for the greater grace, and haunted with Lice and Rats for want of better company.

A Scrivener is reputed merciless in taking the forfeiture of a bond, but these men have with *Iudas*, for thirty pence taken the forfeiture of a prisoners life, for the want of so much mony to discharge him, suffering him to dye in prison.

A rich Farmer is esteemed most inhumane, and no Christian, to take but the house or tenement over the head of a poore tenant then resident in it : but these make it nothing to take divers lodgings from a Common Jayle, which belonged for the easse and relieve of divers poore prisoners, to convert them to the Malters side, and the benefit redounding to their owne purses, which is at the least 100 pound *per annum*.

Againe, are all thy Actions discharged, and is there any hope that thou shalt have any fortunes abroad, or

or that thou hast good friends to maintaine thee in Prison? be sure then that upon thy going out thou shalt be put backe, (when all fees are paid) though thy very foote stand upon the threshold, if knaves and Varlets, Clarkes and Catch-poles, can by trotting up and downe to any man to whom thou oweſt money, find any ſpring to catch thee in like a Wood-cocke.

And albeit thou art as free from any debts, as when thou werſt borne, yet rather than faile, Actions ſhall be entred upon thee in a name thou knoweft not, never hadſt to deale with, or never heareſt of: Great pity that the reverend Judges of our Land have not eyes to look through the very heart of ſuch villanies, or are not certiſed of the miſerable dealing, and cruell extortiōn continually offered to Prifoners, to eaſe them, as they are both able and haue ready hands to puniſh them.

Shall I adde this one thing more, which I doe with a compatible commiſſeration of thoſe, who I know lyē groaning under it: Is thy Creditors heart ſoftened ſo gently, that hee hath compounded with thee for all the money thou oweſt him, yet comming to take leave of thy Keeper, thou art thrust backe into a worse priſon than before; a booke of charges lies open before thee, and neither Vinteners nor Tailors bills are ſo terrible as the *Items* of the house, nor perhaſ ſo unconciſionable, beſides all unreaſonablenes to give three pence in the pound for Execution mo‐ney, and three halfe pence for Action, which many times arife to as much as twelve monthes expences.

Offer good mens bonds, offer lands, offer plate,
offer any paune whatsoever.

Ibis, redibis nunquam, in Bello peribis.

Backe thou must goe, to the place from whence
thou art so desirous to come, and in that conflict be-
tweene thy owne wants, and thy Keepers cruelty, pe-
rish, unlesse thou payest the uttermost peiny : nei-
ther the language of intreaties, the promises of
friends, the respect of any of the excellent parts in
thee, whatsoever they be, nor any other motive
(but money) can prevaile in the wonderfull miracle
of thy liberty.

Pecunia omnia potest.

Of mercilesse Taylors.

E Nough is spoken of the Essay going before,
yet too much being too little, with often incul-
cation, into eares so deafe from being penetra-
ted.

A voyce lowd as thunder, had need to roare and
to awaken them. One Venny more, and if that hit so,
i f not, (but if their hearts are not to be pierced) I
will lay downe the Bucklers, and suffer them to take
them up, yet fall backe, fall edge, thus traverse we
our ground.

I love to see a mother hugge her infant, or a Fa-
ther stroake his sonne on the head, these are bonds
in nature, so strangely and strongly sealed, that to
infringe them violates the very lawes of Heaven:
but when I see man exercise wilful tiranny upon man,
it is as if the stars should in envy burne one another,

to

to extinguish one anothers light , and so confound
that Spheare in malicious darknesse.

Barbarous cruelty is a Belluine quality : Tygers,
Panthers, Beares, and Bandogs, have it by naturall
inclination; it is no shame for them, it is in them a
basenesse if they degenerate to mildnesse, and lose
their courages : they have mouthes, jawes, teeth,
pawes, and limbes proportionable to their savage
disposition.

But man is borne weake gentle, unapt to doe hurt,
unable to offer violence, and to fall from that good-
nesse, is to fall with the Angels ; how much then doe
they derogate from their noble creation, who
turne the sharpnesse of their nayles, which God armes
them with for their own beauty and defence, to draw
blood upon the bosomes of Christians, made like
themselves? Such are merciless inexorable Jaylors,
(I exempt those tender-hearted ones, which I never
found other) but most certaine such may bee found
within a small compasse, who use and exercise all
cruelty.

Cruelty becomes them worst of all men : a pri-
soner is a poore weather-beaten bird, who having
lost the shoare, is driven by tempest to hang upon
the sailes and tacklings of a prison : the Taylor is the
Saylor, and if he beateth the bird off to sink her in
the seas, when by climbing up to the maine top, or
perhaps by lifting up his hand, he may take it and
lend it heate from his warme bosome ; it is an argu-
ment, that his heart is made of the same rocks, that
lye in wait to destroy ships in the Ocean.

Pitty is a god-like property; but hardnesse of heart, selfe-wild tyranny, currish dealing, and imperious domineering over men dejected, argue base, ignoble, cowardly, and devilish dispositions.

It is a Maxime in the Schoole of valour, that no Coward can be an honest man: what then are flint-breasted Jaylors, who dare not strike but when they see men lie fettered at their feete: so dead Lions may be bitten and torne in peeces with Curres, which before durst not quetch for terrore of their pawes; so that he who descends to that poverty of minde, as to fathimselfe by other mens miserie, can no longer write man, *Mysanthropos*, Man-hater, or rather *Anthropophagus*, Man-eater.

If remorceleſſe keepers of Prisons; (for drawing now mine arrow) beare witneſſe you who give ayme, that I ſhoote at none, that if Marble-hearted Jaylors were ſo hapleſſe happy as to be miſtakēn, and be made Kings, they would in ſtead of Iron to their Grates, have barres made of mens ribs, Death ſhould ſtand at doore for Porter, and the Diuell eveyr night come gingling of keyes, and tapping at doores to lock men up.

There be ſome Jaylors which deales with a priſoner, as a Cat with a Mouse, while ſhee is quick and ſtrong ſeemes to play with her, and to give her ſome liberty, but being faint and weary, preſently devoures her. So the Jaylor, while the Priſoner hath any ſtrength of monies, friends, cloathes, or good pawns, ſeemes to favour and yeeld him ſome freedome, but theſe failing, the worſt uſage is then thought too good for him.

The

The Broker useth to receive pawnes, but when he hath the feathers he lets the bird flye at liberty ; but the Taylor when he hath beene plum'd with the prisoners pawnies, detaines him for his last morsell.

The difference betwixt his enforced tenants and himselfe, that they are Prisoners within doores, and he without doores ; they desiring to be at liberty, he willingly loving this base servitude ; he is in Iron as well as they, and long may be so ; and to say the truth, he is the longer and the worse prisoner.

Hee feedes very strangely, for some say hee eates cloakes, hats, shirts, beds, and bed-steds, brasse, or pewter, or Gold Rings, Plate, and the like ; but I say hee is in his dyet more greedy than Cannibals, for they eate but some parts of a man, but this devours the whole body.

The tenne-peny, and nine-peny Ordinaries shold never bee in the Fleet, Gate-houise, or the two infernal Compters, for Hunger would lay the Cloth, and Famine should play the leanie fac'd Serving-man to take away the Trenchers.

Neroes cruelty, in respect of these, would be counted the peaceable reigne of *Augustus Cesar*, the persecutions of the Romane Emperours upon the Primitive Christians, should be painted Tragedies to read Massacres, compared to the inhumane blood-thirsty exercises which these Tyrants would put prisoners to, if they durst doe, what they have minde to doe.

Obiect. It may happily be thought that I am too

too bitter, and write untruths out of a malicious penne.

Reas. Let the world be judge : for when I see or heare that many noble, brave, and generous spirits, borne to great fortunes, well descended, of courages not to be baffled, but by the arme of base fortune, and the irresistible violence of Lawes fighting against them for debts: when I say, I see or heare that such Gentlemen, upon one after noches going abroad, might free themselves from bondage, and offer to goe pinneond, peradventure with leases of Keepers, and giving besides proffered security of worthy friends, oaths, faiths, honours, and reputations of Gentlemen to come backe safe, when an inflexible Taylor can with a word let them goe, yet spitefully stops them : Oh misery ! what shall I speake of this, on whom complaine ? Are there no such Keepers of Prisons in this Kingdome, then I doe none wrong.

But I will give you the picture of one farre worse, neither will I thereby infer all are faulty by one mans fault, God forbid : but thus I bestow him upon you.

There was living within lesse than seaven yeares past, in one of the petty prisons of this land, or not farre from it, a Taylor, who having some poore men under his custody, lying for debts, and wanting all reliefe of friends, dwelling (as charity does still) many miles out of the way, was so unmereisfull to them, that they having but little money, were glad to buy of him the livers of bullocks, which he begged

begged of Butchers for a dogge that he kept, and to pay a halfe penny for a quart of water. But what became of this Taylour? he went one evening in perfect health to bed, at midnight started up roaring and raving, and crying out, the chamber was all on fire, and the Devil at his bed side catching at him, and so dyed in desperation. His wife after his death, keeping the same Tayle, fell suddainly extream poore, and his children die at this houre goe a begging, for *quæsis vita, finis sita.* Never was it heard that any hard hearted Taylor did dye rich, or if he did, yet curses followed him to his grave, infamy fate over upon it, his end was wretched, his wealth melted to nothing, his family hath not prospered, his wife and posterity have bee ne beggers, and he that exhausteth a heape of riches out of the blood of prisoners, hath Gods mercy drawne away from him : I write this not to defame the good, but to reclaine the bad.

*De male quæsi-
tis non gaudet
tertius heros.*

Of the miserable life in Prison.

To be a slave to a Turke is not so much, because he is a Turke, a monster whose teeth are sharpened of purpose, (by divine sufferance) to bite and draw blood : a Buls pizzle is as proper to his hand, as a Turban to his head.

Cruelty is a genuine quality, but for a Christian to be slave to a Christian, as a prisoner is to an insulting Taylor, is as repugnant to nature, as for an elder brother to eate scraps from a younger brothers trencher.

The bondage is doubled in the basenesse of those petty insolent rake-hells, under whom the prisoner with a patience perforce suffers. For he is a slave in the eye of all freedome, fettered in the lap of his mother(his Countrey) and what misery can bee greater than to see shore, and yet be cast away.

To a free borne generous spirit, no Jewels are halfe so precious as his native liberty, gold to that as durt, and albeit with a masculine courage he endures the braves of peasants, when his body is confined, yet the nobility of his minde indures such wounds, as a woman in labour doth her throwes, the stroakes of death are easie to her passions.

Some cannot beleeve, that so base a creature as a Bandog dare set upon a Lyon, but fresh experiance teaches us the contrary, for that majesticall Beast was not onely barked at, but bitten in his own Lodging(the Tower) not many yeares past : So when thou art hurried through the streetes, in thy thundering Caroch , all eyes upon thee, Footmen running by thee, thy body glistering in Gold, thy mind swelling with pride, thy bagges full, thy attendants many , all men standing bare before thee at thy bed and boord, how wouldest thou take in scorne, if a wizzard by the Almanacke of thy riots, poynting to an ill fac'd Catchpole, Bayliffe, or Jaylor, as he passeth by that pompe) shoulde prognosticate and say, one of yonder Mastiffes will one day teare thee, when thou shalt not dare to spurne him, wouldest thou beleeve this ? Wouldst thou thinke so poore a snake durst ever sting thee?

But

But when for heavy debts thou shalt be tossed
from penne to penne ; (of pleaders) into a prison,
when having hardly wintered within that Gar-
rison of woe, thy face shall not bee thine, but
the picture of care and discontentment, when
though thou slumbrest, thy griefe shall still lye a-
wake, when thy Angels shall have their wings clipt,
and thy silkes be turned into course freeſe, then that
Dogge whom thou scornedſt to have kept thy gate,
ſhall in thy very chamber ſnarle at thee ; thy bread
by his kneading ſhall be full of gravell, and thou
muſt eate it; thy drinke by his bitterneſſe turned into
gall, yet thou muſt drinke it ; thou ſhalt be driven
to thy bed with as much loathing, as a wretch that
is to lye on a hurdle, and not ſuffered to riſe until his
Iron hand plucke thee up. So pent up wilt thou bee
from ayre, that it ſhall almost make thee forget
there is a Sunne in heaven : where is the edge of
thy courage now? how poorely is all thy former
bravery attired? dares this Butchers Curre now
fasten upon the Lyon? yes he ſhall : And there-
fore

*Thus know him : If thou like not his harsh note,
He grumbles, barkes, and ee'ne to bite thy throat.
His heart (if he durſt do't) because he has power,
As Lyons are lock't up within the Tower :
So here great ſpirits are forc't to abide the braves,
Base checks, and furly looks of groomes and knaves.
Prisoners to Taylors ſue that wretched trade
Of common fiddlers; each one dare upbraid,*

42 *Essays and Characters of a Locker up.*

And call them base, what ever griefe or wrongs
Lye at their hearts, they must chant merry songs,
Like birds in Cages, and are glad to sing
Sweet tunes to those, who them to thralldome bring.
Who goe at freedome, at these hels may gbesse,
None know them right, but they whose soules they preſſe.

A Locker up at Nights.

IS an *Ignis fatuus*, (or fire-Drake) that glides from Roome to Roome, and frights every prisoner upon whom he sheds his light ; if he prayes well, he cannot but bee a good Christian, for he is sure to watch,

He might be a ſouldier by his walking the round, but that the poore rafſel! ſeldome or never goes with a * piece about him , his cloathes and hee are of one threedbare waring , and very hardly get a nap.

Sometimes his eares are boxt for the glibneſſe of his tongue, and though every night nothing be given him, yet he is ſure to catch cold.

The Varlet is a ranke begger, yet many coxcombs thinke hee hath much in his keeping, because he is ſtill locking up : the Bel-man of the City and he have almost offices alike, yet herein they differ, that the Bel-man hath his dog following him, but this night-walker growes into the habite of a dog by his curiſhneſſe.

* Two and twenty ſhillings.

A noble understanding Prisoner.

IS a Booke so truely printed, that fortune (with all her mistakings) cannot finde in him any Errata. He comes to prison as a great shippe in a storme to shore, shewing more noble Emblemes of constant suffering, than the seas could sticke upon it of their tiranny.

He beholds Jaylors, as a valiant souldier looks upon his wounds, which (how dangerous soever) yet he smiles upon his Chyrurgion, and will endure dressing with an undaunted countenance, because he knowes it is to fetch him off from danger.

No *Jacobs* staffe can take the height of a starre so truely, as his resolution can both of his owne misery, and his keepers cruelty : which albeit they move in one Spheare, yet their motions are contrary ; for the one turnes still to his owne goodnesse, and the other to his Masters guilt and confusion.

He is the Oyle which swimmes on the top of affliction with courage, and cleerenesse, that part which is downwards, shines as brightly as that above, and no turbulence can make it sinke to the bottome. Of all Geometricall figures, a circle is the most perfect, and the hardest proposition is to bring it into a square, for some small fraction must be still left out: so it fares with this mans dimensions, addition makes him imperfect, and to cast off any thing leaves him lame. *Ovid's* Verse and he are one and the same, word nor fillable are too much, nor too little : In

briefe, he can (with Judgement) know when to beat a saucy Taylor, and when to have him fawn and make a shillings-worth of legs.

Observations of a Prison.

1. **T**He dearest meat in Prison is a Tablers cheese, and his first welcome.

2. The cheapest drinke are Garnishes, on pottle of that is worth ten which you shall pay for in any Taverne about London : but it is farre more pleasant to drinke his part of ten in a Taverne.

3. He that comes fresh into prison, if hee flye into the parlour for victuals, is called a Woodcocke, if not thither, but at randome, than a Snipe; howsoever you terme them, but are sure to be caught, and to put all into one cage ; the Wood-cocke onely is now and then a little finelier trimmed up with green boughes, and reason, for the inferiour petty Taylors hold him to be the better meate, and therefore never leave feeding upon him, untill they have pickt him to the very bones.

4. In prisons, Gentlemen, and bursten Citizens meet as upon the Exchange, but the newes of both are not alike ; for the gentleman shall be sure to heare of nothing but of wracks, but the poloticke cheating Bankrupt heares still that his ship comes home with rich lading ; this is his safest landing place.

5. Fat mutton-chops out of the Kitchin, make leane

leane Commons in a prisoners chamber.

6. You shall see some in a chamber, who having scarce cloaths to cover them with, yet finging good store of money ; the pottle pot shall never cease filling , untill the hogs-head of their silver be cleane emptied, albe they wash their dry mouths a fortnight after with small beere. Such fellowes are like some scuryv players, whose ambition is to play the greatest parts , yet performing them ill favouredly , are hist at for their labour.

7. Anasty stinging lodging in a Jayle , is sweeter land than any garden house about *Bun hill*.

8. A Tobacco shop and a Bawdy house, are in the Skirts of the Suburbs counted Inmates, but in a pri-
son the tenure is all one.

9. A prison is nothing else but a great Ale-house, for every chamber is nothing else but a continuall drinking roome.

10. *Adam* was driven out of *Eden* for eating of a poore apple , and a prisoner for want of sixe pence shall be kept out of the Garden: Every *Cerberus* must have his sop.

11. The Porters lodge is a Martins nest,a knave Porters favour is bought as men sell deale bordes, (by the foote) so of him for a sixe penny bribe thou shalt have an inch of liberty, measured out by the Rule.

12. It is flowing water in a prison , when there is no roomie in the Celler for a man to drinke a Cup of Beere in ; ebbing water when *John Batty* sits nodding for want of company.

13. It

13. It is full sea when three men are forced to lye thrusting in one bed.

14. A snorting bed-fellow, is that great Organ pipe, whose base sound sets all the Quire a roaring.

15. The easiest commodities to be taken up in a Prison are smocks, but trust no man with a shirt, no though he be a Knight of *Malta*, *S. Iago*, *Santa Cruz*, or the *Sepulcher*, though he steale his band of tennie thousand *Dam-mees*.

16. Many fine Rings are to be had in a Prison, the mettal of them is right Touch, but most of the stones are counterfeit.

17. The Sun every yeare passeth through the 12. Signes in the Zodiack, and the same signes serve as twelve houses belonging to a prison.

1. The Signe is in *Aries*, when a Country Ram, and a City Goat meet ful But in a Prison upon going to Law one goares another.
2. In *Taurus*, when the poore debtor is tossed upon the horns of his adversaries malice, from the Countrey Jayle to London, first to the Kings Bench, and then to the Fleet.
3. In *Gemini*, when halfe the prison are drunke in couples, this is a hot Signe.
4. In *Cancer*, when a prisoner scorning to grease the groome Porter with oyle of silver, requests to come into the Lodge, or walke into the Rule, but is forced (with a *Cancers imitare*) to goe backward.
5. In *Leo*, when there is a mutiny in the house, breaking

breaking open locks, & battering down doors.

6. In *Virgo*, when a pretty wench comes to have her Action entred in a close chamber.

7. In *Libra*, when the shaving Jaylor, and sharking Creditor equally fleece the Prisoner, and turne him out like a new shorne sheepe.

8. In *Scorpio*, when beds are lousie.

9. In *Sagittarius*, when a Tabler eating too deep into score, is ihot from full platters, and feeds on two-penny chops and porrage.

10. In *Capricornus*, when a prisoners wife taking hold on times fore-locke, gives her husband a Bugle hat-band.

11. In *Aquarius*, when a Prisoner at his first coming into prison, gives sixepence for an earthen pisse-pot.

12. In *Pisces*, when he paies eight pence in the Kitchin for dressing a groats worth of fish.

18. Sure they are no Aldermen that lye in prison, for if you see sourescore of them in one house, threescore and eighteene of those have given up their Cloaks.

19. *Amsterdam* and a Jayle are peopled alike, Religion in both places goe antickly attired, for here whilst some are busie at Sermon, others are as bufie at their halfe Cans; one man sits bare-headed to heare Service, and the very next to him with his hat on stitching of Bodies; one man with his Spectacles on, reading the first Lesson, another hard by him stitching on the upper soles of a paire of shooes.

20. Prisoners in the Kings Bench common Jayle,

H are

*Their beds are
called horses.*

are able to doe good service both by Sea and Land, for some have Cabins, but most of them keep horses.

21. The Kings Guard are counted the strongest Archers; but here are better suitors.

22. A Whore entring into prison is a Hony-pot, about the which all the Flies come buzzing, as Crows to a Carrion.

23. The Lease of every prison is forfeited, if every prisoner goe sober to bed.

24 Some are of opinion, that English prisons lock up none but Englishmen; but I say they are all Hungarians.

25. Execution of the law, is a satisfaction to the law, all men therefore in execution have paid their debts.

26. They that being at liberty were ever held to speake truth, are in a prison horrible liars.

27. Men study no game at Cards so much in prison as Maw.

28. To borrow money is called striking, but the blow can hardly or never be recovered.

29. Every prisoner is a Piece, and no marvaile if he breakes, being so greatly charged.

30. A Taylor has a diuelish stomack, for he eats men.

31. *Show* your own country-man, & writer of Chronicles cannot be beleaved by many, touching the remotion of Lands by Earth-quakes, and yet to confirme him, goe but to the Kings Bench, and it is a wonder if you find not *Hockley in the Hole*, about the house, which yee all know was planted farther off; fame is as windy as any of the 4 quarters which trumpeting his judgement in government abroad hath

com-

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commanded his assistance to this place; souldiers are something more exorbitant than prisoners, and since he knew how to menace them, doubt not but he will quickly learne to manage us. This is the greatest unlikely-hood, yet here it is ratified. What else ye shall heare, both touching the place, the persons, and their hangers on, hang me if the tryall make you not say, report hath beene too sparing. I wish to every man faith to beleeve all this; but deliverance from tasting of the least part that others suffer.

FINIS.

